

*Raminsh*

# LAKE OF TEARS



 PERA  
KELOWNA

EVENT REPORT | 2016





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Opera Kelowna performed its first commissioned opera by one of Canada's most renowned composers, Imant Raminsh, to animate the art of Kelowna-based artist Jane Everett and the libretto of Lesley-Anne Evans. The recorded nature sounds of loons and water quieted the audience. Pianist Arnold Draper, Clarinetist Mary Norby and Flutist Christin Moore were conducted by Opera Kelowna's Artistic Director, Alexandra Babbel.

The operatic voices of Soprano Elizabeth Harris, Mezzo-Soprano Mia Harris, Tenor Tony Bittar and Baritone Andrew Stewart resonated in the atrium of the Rotary Centre for the Arts as the audience, surrounded by the installation of Everett's giant oil on vellum banners, loon wings, and painted canoe paddles sat back and enjoyed. The experience brought a music and art admiring audience together in an intimate and up-close

exposure to the cross-pollination of genres.

Composer Imant Raminsh demonstrated a high level of artistic merit in this composition. His long and fruitful career and his exemplary professional relationship with the ensembles of Alexandra Babbel culminated in this project.

Guests met and mingled with the composer, artist, librettist, stage director and cast along



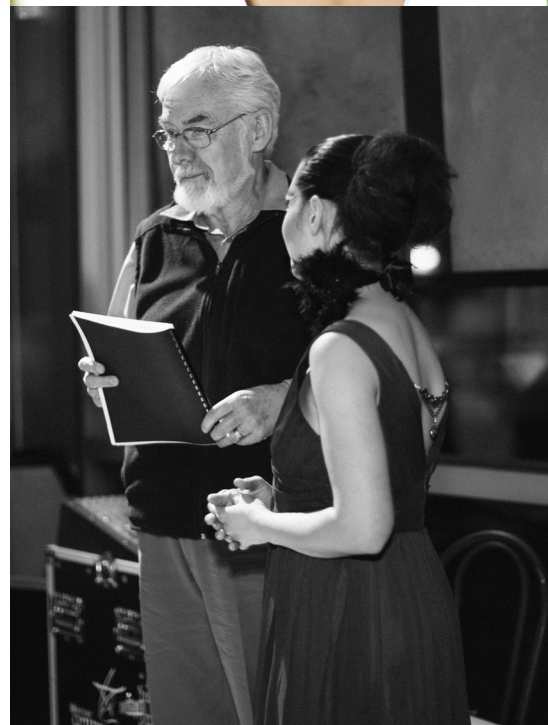
with Mayor Colin and Leanne Basran and numerous dignitaries at the premiere performance and reception of Lake of Tears on February 20, 2016. The opera was performed during the following week for school-aged children as an educational outreach mandate. In addition, several special interest groups were also invited to the opera including Karis Society and Metro Central Drop In Centre, fulfilling Opera Kelowna's mandate to reach a

diverse and inclusive audience. The brevity of the opera (35 minutes) allowed accessibility to many first-time opera attendees. Three additional performances occurred the evening of February 23, 2016. In total over 450 guests took in the sites and sounds of "The Lake of Tears."



Of special note was hair and make-up designer Missy MacKintosh, who emulated loon-like features with stunning colours and feathers.

Future plans include a remounting of the opera in August 2017 as part of Opera Kelowna's summer opera series in celebration of Canada's 150 years.







# OPERA

KELOWNA



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